Strength of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

4021. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the sanctioned strength of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and the special number of Members at present;

(b) the number of cases referred to the Board and the number of cases pending by the end of December, 1992, bench-wise;

(c) whether there is any increase in the work load if so, the steps taken to ensure quick disposal of cases; and

(d) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for quick rehabilitation of sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) A Chairman and 5 Members currently function in the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as against the sanctioned strength of a Chairman and 8 Members.

(b) The total number of references registered with BIFR upto 31-12-92 and the number of cases pending as on 31-12-92 (Bench-wise) are indicated below:

	BENCH				
	I	II	III	IV	Total
No. of references registered up to 31-12-92	413	373	323	174	1283
No. of references pending as on 31-12-92	151	117	124	67	459

(c) and (d) There has been an increase in the workload of BIFR due to bringing in the sick/weak public sector undertakings within its purview. In order to ensure timely disposal of cases, BIFR has streamlined its procedure and optimised the number of hearings by each Bench. In addition, there has been considerable stress on expeditious decision on references received. As regards, the steps proposed to be taken for quick rehabilitation of sick industries, comprehensive amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) are currently under process.

Implementation of World Bank aided projects

4022. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several World Bank and IDA aided projects in India have been termed as unsatisfactory as reported in the Economic Times dated the 12th February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) the reasons of their unsatisfactory progress; and

(d) whether Government propose to implement World Bank and IDA aided projects in time to avoid cost escalation of each project?